



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Louisville District

## **OLMSTED LOCKS AND DAM**

### ***MEDIA KIT***

**Strengthening the Nation's Security through Infrastructure**



#### **USACE Louisville District Public Affairs Office**

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US Army Corps of Engineers

# OLMSTED LOCKS AND DAM

SECURING THE NATION THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE

## MEDIA KIT

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Olmsted Locks and Dam

567 New Dam Road

Olmsted, IL. 62970

## **Olmsted Locks & Dam Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

### **MEDIA GROUND RULES**

We respectfully request your cooperation with each of the items noted below. Media must follow any instructions given by the on-scene Corps media escort.

- All media must sign in with either Carol Vernon or Michael Izard-Carroll, the “Media Cell”.
- Please wear media credential lanyards provided by the Corps at all times.
- All media must receive a safety briefing prior to coming on site.
- Media does not have access to any buildings on site; portable toilets are available.
- All face-to-face interviews with panelists are to be coordinated through the Media Cell.

#### Ceremony

- Remain in the designated media area in the rear of the tent; limited space MAY be available on left and right of the tent but please do not go past the 4<sup>th</sup> column from the back and do not block USACE or other cameras.
- Please do not conduct interviews during the ceremony as it may be distracting to attendees.
- Please respect the space of your colleagues and allow for fair access for coverage.

#### Press Conference

The press conference will start at approximately 11:35 a.m. and last for 25 minutes. A second press conference MAY be held later in the day.

- Please wait until you are called upon by the USACE Public Affairs mediator (Jacqueline Tate).
- Please stand, then state your name and affiliation before asking a question.
- You are limited to one question and one follow-up.
- The mediator will announce the end of the press conference and will provide any further instructions as appropriate.
- Additional media kits are available from Media Cell.

#### Media Products

All of the photos and videos found on the sites below are for public use.

Full live-streamed video:	Facebook - <a href="https://www.facebook.com/USArmy/DIVIDS">https://www.facebook.com/USArmy/DIVIDS</a> - <a href="https://www.dvidshub.net/webcast/16603">https://www.dvidshub.net/webcast/16603</a>
Photos:	DIVIDS, Facebook and FLICKR - <a href="http://www.flickr.com/louisvilleusace">www.flickr.com/louisvilleusace</a>
B-roll footage:	DIVIDS - <a href="https://www.dvidshub.net/webcast/16603">https://www.dvidshub.net/webcast/16603</a>



US Army Corps of Engineers

# OLMSTED LOCKS AND DAM

SECURING THE NATION THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE

## Olmsted Locks and Dam Fact Sheet

**Official Title:** Locks and Dam 52 and 53 Replacement Project (Olmsted Locks and Dam), Illinois and Kentucky.

**Location:** The project is located in Olmsted, Illinois near Ohio River Mile 964.4.

**Purpose:** Construct the new Olmsted Locks and Dam to replace Ohio River Locks and Dams 52 & 53. Demolish Locks and Dams 52 & 53 once Olmsted is operational.



**Project Description and Background:** The project consists of two 110-foot X 1200-foot locks adjacent to the Illinois bank, and a dam comprised of five tainter gates, 1400 feet of boat-operated wickets and a fixed weir. The proposed replacement structure will eliminate Ohio River Locks & Dams 52 & 53. Locks & Dams 52 & 53 were completed in 1929 and the temporary 1,200-foot long lock chambers were added in 1969 at Locks & Dam 52 and 1979 at Locks & Dam 53. The antiquated design and age of these structures make it impossible to meet current traffic demands without significant delays. The existing structures have deteriorated structurally and are overstressed during normal operating conditions. Existing wicket dam has missing sections and wickets that will not raise making it very difficult to maintain pool during low water. The temporary locks at Locks & Dam 52 & 53 have significantly passed their 15-year design life.

This strategic reach of the Ohio River provides a connection between the Mississippi River, Tennessee River and Cumberland River. More tonnage passes this point than any other place in America's inland navigation system. In 2011, 91 million tons traversed Locks & Dam 52, this portion of the Ohio River. Twenty-five percent of all coal shipped on the inland waterways transits Locks & Dam 52, destined for many of the 50 power plants located on the Ohio River System or the 17 power plants located in eight states on the Upper or Lower Mississippi River.

**Current Status and Outstanding Issues:** The two 110-foot X 1200-foot locks and approach walls are complete. The fixed weir on the Kentucky bank is complete. As of Jan. 31, 2018, all eighteen dam tainter gates shells were set and all five tainter gates erected. In the navigable pass section, all twelve paving blocks, the right boat abutment, and all twelve navigable pass shells have been set in the river. Foundation pile driving operations for the navigable pass have been completed. All critical cast-in-place concrete lifts are complete and removal of the left boat abutment thin wall cofferdam has been completed. Both the Lock Master and Maintenance buildings are complete. River Dike Nos. 1 - 7 have been completed. Current schedule is for the dam to be operational in October 2018 and to complete the project, including removal of Dams

52 & 53, in December 2020.

Summarized Financial Data

2012 PACR	\$3,099,000,000
2016 Total Estimated Project Cost (NWW certified)	\$3,059,266,000
Estimated Federal Cost	\$1,940,324,000
Estimated Inland Waterways Trust Fund Cost	\$1,118,942,000
Allocation thru FY16 including ARRA allocation thru 30 Sept 15	\$2,227,402,000
FY17 Allocation	\$250,000,000
FY18 President's Budget	\$175,000,000
Benefit to Cost Ratio (at 7%)	1.98
Non-Federal Sponsor	N/A

The Olmsted Locks & Dam project was authorized by Section 3(a)(6) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1988. The authorized project cost was increased on Oct. 17, 2013 as part of a Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 to \$2,918,000,000. The project was funded 50%/50% from the General Treasury and the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) through FY2013. The FY2014 Omnibus Appropriation Act changed the split of IWTF and General Treasury funds to 25%/75% for FY2014 only. Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 changed the IWTF and General Treasury shares to 15%/85% beginning 1 October 2014. As of 01 February 2018, \$2.475B has been expended on the project.

The most recent (2018) economic update forecast annual average benefits at \$236M. PACR annual benefits were calculated at \$640M.



# News Release

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**BUILDING STRONG®**

For Immediate Release:  
August 30, 2018

Contact:  
Todd Hornback: 502-558-7932 ([todd.j.hornback@usace.army.mil](mailto:todd.j.hornback@usace.army.mil))  
Jacqueline Tate: 513-265-7057 ([jacqueline.y.tate@usace.army.mil](mailto:jacqueline.y.tate@usace.army.mil))

## Corps cuts ribbon on Olmsted Locks and Dam project

**LOUISVILLE, Ky.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday for the Olmsted Locks and Dam, a project that will bring reliable navigation to the Ohio River offering millions of dollars of economic gains annually.

Olmsted Locks and Dam and the Ohio River create a strategic region providing a connection between the Mississippi, Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. According to national inland waterway statistics, more tonnage passes through the region than any other place in America's inland navigation system.

"Once fully operational, Olmsted will provide much-needed reliability and an average annual economic benefit of approximately \$640 million per year," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. "It will be the lynchpin of our country's incredible inland waterways system."

The Corps' 54<sup>th</sup> Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite said improving navigation is one of the Corps earliest civil works missions, which dates back to the early 1800s.

"We have relentlessly delivered unmatched reliability for America's farmers, manufacturers, shippers, vessel operators and consumers," said Semonite. "Today, 98 percent of overseas trade, with a value of \$2 trillion, moves through Corps of Engineers projects."

Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Commander Maj. Gen. Mark Toy stated the nation is suffering from the effects of aging infrastructure. Within this division, there are lock and dam facilities that are more than 100 years old. These inland waterway facilities had an expected design lifespan of about 50 years; however, because of the dedication and outstanding work of the lock and dam operators and maintenance crews, the Corps has continued to operate these facilities for the nation.

"Thanks to our team, the Olmsted Locks and Dam will ensure the viability of this commercial waterway so important to our nation's economic security," said Toy. "Everything we build, everything we do in USACE is about taking care of people."

The project is the largest Corps project since the Panama Canal. It consists of two 110-foot by 1,200-foot locks, which are located adjacent to the Illinois bank and a dam comprised of five tainter gates, which control the amount of water that flows downstream. Additionally, there are 140 wickets and a fixed weir.

-more-

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**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – LOUISVILLE DISTRICT**

P.O. Box 59, Louisville, KY 40201-0059  
[www.lrl.usace.army.mil](http://www.lrl.usace.army.mil)



“This project reflects the hard work and dedication of an incredible team,” said Col. Antoinette Gant, commander Louisville District. “I am proud of the Louisville District employees and contractors who have given of themselves to bring this project to fruition.”

“From the beginning, we knew that safety, innovation, planning, communication and our people would be critical for this project,” said Kevin McLaughlin, project director AECOM. “As a contractor, seldom do you have the opportunity to work on a once-in-a-generation and, for some, a once-in-a-lifetime project like this, where the challenges were met by a united workforce.”

Olmsted Locks and Dam will eventually replace Ohio River locks and dams 52 and 53, completed in 1929. The existing dams have outlived their 15-year designs, making it impossible for these structures to meet current-day traffic demands.

“From initial project planning all the way through today’s final ribbon-cutting ceremony, our members have never wavered in delivering ‘value on display, every day,’” said Sean McGarvey, North America’s Building Trades Unions President. “For over thirty years, we’ve deployed the highest skilled workers every day at Olmsted, putting in 45 million workhours to build and maintain this phenomenal infrastructure accomplishment.”

According to McGarvey, the Building Trades’ skilled labor boosted the economy of the Ohio River Valley and continues to support the region’s middle class by creating millions of jobs that provide family-supporting wages, worker training, protections and benefits.

“Within the Corps, we are revolutionizing our culture to responsibly accelerate project delivery, optimize financing and budgeting, and improve permitting and regulatory activities,” said Semonite. “Olmsted stands as a shining example of what is possible when we all marshal our ingenuity, innovation and investment in a vital public good.”

Media Products:

Full live-streamed video: Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/USArmy/DIVIDS> - <https://www.dvidshub.net/webcast/16603>  
Photos: DIVIDS, Facebook and FLICKR - [www.flickr.com/louisvilleusace](http://www.flickr.com/louisvilleusace)  
B-roll footage: DIVIDS - <https://www.dvidshub.net/webcast/16603>

**NOTE:** Invitees included Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; Senate Minority Whip Richard Durbin; Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark Esper; Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, R.D. James; and Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite.

## **Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite**

### **USACE Commanding General and 54<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**



Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite assumed his position as Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on May 19, 2016. As the USACE Commanding General, he is responsible for more than 32,000 Civilian employees and 700 Military personnel who provide project management, construction support and engineering expertise in more than 110 countries around the world.

Previous to this assignment, Lieutenant General Semonite established the Army Talent Management Task Force and served as its first Director. In this role, Lieutenant General Semonite was responsible for reforming the way the Army acquires, develops, employs, and retains a talented workforce. Prior to these duties, Lieutenant General Semonite was the Commanding General for Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, responsible for the building of the Afghan Army and Police through management of a \$13 billion budget to support a 352,000

individual force. During his tenure, the mission focused on sustainment of that force and training, advising and assisting the Security Ministries towards establishing an enduring culture of fiscal discipline, transparency and accountability, while continuing to fight and win against a significant enemy threat.

Lieutenant General Semonite, is a native of Bellows Falls, Vermont is a registered professional engineer in Virginia and Vermont. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point in New York and was commissioned into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1979. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy, a Master of Science in Civil Engineering degree from the University of Vermont, and a Masters of Military Arts and Sciences from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

Lieutenant General Semonite's awards include the Distinguished Service Medal (2 Awards), Defense Superior Service Award, Legion of Merit (5 Awards), Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (7 Awards), Army Commendation Medal (3 Awards), Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Superior Unit Award (2 Awards), NATO award, Ranger tab and Parachutist Badge.





## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

### Major General Mark Toy

#### Commander and Division Engineer Great Lakes and Ohio River Division

Major General Mark Toy assumed command of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD), headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio on August 31, 2016. The Division is one of nine USACE regional commands with seven engineer districts totaling over 4000 people operating in a seventeen state area and is charged with directing federal water resource development in the Great Lakes and Ohio River basins with infrastructure valued at over \$80 billion. With an annual operating and construction budget exceeding \$2 billion, missions include planning, construction and operations of navigation structures and flood damage reduction, hydropower, environmental restoration, water conservation, recreation and disaster assistance. The division also executes military construction in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan with design and construction of barracks, hospitals, airfields and family housing on military installations.

While assigned to LRD, Maj. Gen. Toy deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan in support of Operation Resolute Support. He served as the Director for the Enhanced Security Zone (ESZ) leading a task force composed of personnel from USACE and the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIDO). Task Force ESZ's mission was to improve the protective posture of Kabul's "Green Zone" resulting in improved security for the international community and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Before commanding LRD, Maj. Gen. Toy previously served as the Commanding General of the South Pacific Division headquartered in San Francisco, California from June 2014 to August 2016. Established in 1888, the Division encompasses California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and parts of Colorado, Oregon, Wyoming, Idaho, and Texas. Four operating Districts are headquartered in Albuquerque, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Francisco. As Division Commander, Brigadier General Toy was responsible for leading a professional workforce of more than 2,300 military and civilians and managing a \$4B military and civil works program.

From August 2013 to June 2014, Maj. Gen. Toy served as the Chief of Staff for USACE. He was the key integrator for focusing the efforts of the HQ staff, nine Major Subordinate Commands/Divisions, 43 Engineer Districts, and two Centers and Laboratories to best accomplish the Commander's Intent. He was the principal advisor to the Commanding General and the Deputy Commanding General.

Maj. Gen. Toy served as the Commander and District Engineer for the Los Angeles District, USACE from July 2010 to July 2013 where he led an 800 strong military and civilian workforce operating over a 226,000 square mile area of California, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah.

Maj. Gen. Toy commanded the 84th Engineer Battalion "Never Daunted" from July 2005 to June 2007 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. In December 2006, the battalion deployed for one year to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). As Battalion Commander, he led over 900 Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen in providing direct and general engineering support to Multi-National Corps Iraq to provide assured mobility and construction capability throughout Iraq. Upon redeployment, the 84th Engineer Battalion was awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation. For his service in the combat zone, Brig. Gen. Toy was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Some of his other key staff assignments include: Chief, Engineer Branch, Officer Personnel Management Directorate, Human Resources Command, Alexandria, Virginia; Aide-de-Camp to LTG Robert B. Flowers, the 50th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, USACE, Washington D.C.; and Assistant Professor of Environmental Engineering, Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering, United States Military Academy, West Point, New York.

Maj. Gen. Toy's awards and decorations include the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (2 Awards), Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (6 Awards), Army Commendation Medal (2 Awards), Army Achievement Medal (2 Awards), Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Superior Unit Award, Combat Action Badge, and Parachutist Badge.

Maj. Gen. Toy is from Huntington Beach, California. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Operations Research. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Boston University (1991), a Master of Science Degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of California at Los Angeles (1996), and a Master of Science Degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (2010). He is a Registered Professional Engineer in the states of Arizona and Virginia.

## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER DIVISION

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and Taking Care of People!***



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Louisville District  
P.O. Box 59  
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

## **Colonel Antoinette “Toni” Gant Commander, Louisville District**



COL Antoinette Gant, assumed command of the Louisville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers July 27, 2017, where she, with the assistance of the Executive Office staff, provides strategic direction, command and control for the Louisville District in execution of civil, military and environmental restoration programs.

A native of Port Gibson, Mississippi, COL Gant graduated from Prairie View A&M University as a Distinguished Military Graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a commission in the Engineer Regiment. She holds a Master of Science in Engineer Management from Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, Missouri and a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the Dwight D. Eisenhower School, National Defense University, Washington, DC.

Prior to the Louisville District, COL Gant served as the Resolute Support Combined Joint Engineer Branch Chief in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. In this capacity she provided advice and planning assistance to the Resolute Support Commander and staff in all aspects of military engineering while leading a joint and multinational engineer team of military and civilian personnel with the responsibility of the development and integration of theater-wide engineering plans, policy, and direction for the Resolute Support mission. She also had the responsibility of oversight and development of NATO facilities and infrastructure, environmental protection policy, real estate policy, and the management of \$1.5 billion in NATO property.

COL Gant has lived in 10 states and two countries serving in an array of positions including platoon leader, company executive officer, administrative assistant and special staff to a Corps commander, two company commands, mentor/trainer for Reserve and National Guard units, brigade planner, the director for the Directorates of Public Works and Installation Support in a deployed environment, brigade engineer in an infantry brigade combat team, executive officer for a special troops battalion, chief of operations for an engineer directorate of an Army Service Component Command, district commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Army-Civil Works at the Pentagon. She has also deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

A strong advocate for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), COL Gant has worked to develop partnerships with various agencies and organizations to promote STEM initiatives. She has received several community awards to include the YWCA Women on the Move Award, Women of Influence in Government by Albuquerque Business First, 2014 Black Engineer of the Year Special Recognition Award, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, South Central Region Visionary Leader and Global Leader Awards.

Her military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Commendation Medal (two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), the National Defense Service Medal (one Bronze Service Star), the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the NATO Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon (numeral 2), Army Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Army Superior Unit Award. She has also earned the Army Staff Identification Badge, Recruiter Badge, and Army Engineer Association Bronze DeFleury Medal.

She is married to Leonard L. Gant of Kansas City, MO. They have two children – Lauryn and Leonard II.



### **Kevin McLaughlin**

Kevin McLaughlin is an Executive Project Director, VP at AECOM, and has over 32 years of experience in the construction and engineering industry. He has worked on major infrastructure construction projects including dams, highways, and hydroelectric plants.

His experience in project execution includes project management, construction management, design oversight, constructability reviews, contracts management, construction engineering, construction, safety, quality, coordination with agencies and local jurisdictions.

The projects he has worked on have been technically challenging and require significant coordination in order for successful execution.

Kevin enjoys sports and spending quality time with his wife Molly and son Kegan.



### **Michael J. Toohey**

Michael Toohey serves as President/CEO of Waterways Council, Inc., a position he has held since August 2011.

Prior to that, Mr. Toohey was a consultant for The Livingston Group from 2007 to 2011, providing legislative representation before Congress and the Executive Branch for clients from the chemical and transportation sectors.

He also served as Vice President, Director of Government Relations, Associate Director of Government Relations, and Senior Washington Representative for Ashland Inc. from 1998 through 2007.

Nominated by President George Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Mr. Toohey was Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation from May 1992 through January 1993.

He also served as Staff Director of the Republican Staff, Committee on Public Works and Transportation, from 1983 through 1989, and as Staff Director, Republican Staff, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries from 1981 through 1983. He was also a Professional Staff Member on the Committee on Public Works and Transportation from 1975 through 1981.

Commissioned as an Officer in the U.S. Army, he served on active duty as a staff officer for the Chief of Engineers from 1971 through 1975.

He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry.

He serves on the Board of Directors for the American Highway Users Alliance. He served on the Board of Waterways Council, Inc. and as its Secretary/Treasurer from 2003 to 2005.

He was also a member of the Board of the Danny Thompson Memorial Leukemia Foundation, a Supporting Member of The Marrow Foundation, The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Foundation, and Ducks Unlimited.



Martin T. Hettel  
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I started in the Inland Waterways Industry as a deckhand in 1980. I have held positions in Logistics, Purchasing, Operations, Insurance/Claims, Personnel, Shipping & Receiving, Freight Sales, and Regulatory. The last 19 years of my career have been with AEP River Operations in the Capacity of Logistics, Sales, and Regulatory. Last November ACBL purchased AEP River Operations and I was hired by ACBL in the capacity of Vice President of Government Affairs. I have held and continue to hold the following positions with advocacy groups within the Inland Waterways Industry.

**Illinois River Carriers Association**

Secretary: 2004 - 2007  
President: 2008 – 2010

**Ohio River Basin Alliance**

Steering Committee 2010-2018

**Waterways Council, Inc.**

Board Member 2011-2018  
Executive Committee Member 2012-2018

**Inland Waterways User Board** Board

Member 2012 - 2019 Appointed Chairman  
for 2013-2019

**River Industry Executive Task Force**

Board Member 2014 – 2020

**Transportation Research Board**

Sub Committee Member on Inland Water Transportation 2016-2018



Congressman Comer proudly represents the First District of Kentucky in the United States House of Representatives. He serves constituents in 35 counties - spanning from Western Kentucky to the south central portion of the Commonwealth – and held a town hall in every county in the district during his first year in office. He is a member of the House Committees on Agriculture, Oversight and Government Reform, and Small Business. Congressman Comer is an advocate for eliminating wasteful government spending, implementing business-friendly regulatory reform, and creating opportunities for Kentucky's deserving farmers. In 2018, he became the first Kentucky representative to sit on the Farm Bill conference committee in nearly three decades. Prior to serving in Congress, Congressman Comer attended Western Kentucky University, majoring in agriculture. He then served six terms in the Kentucky State House and was the Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture. Congressman Comer still operates Comer Family Farms in his hometown of Tompkinsville, Kentucky. He and his wife, T.J., have three children and are proud to call the First District of Kentucky home.



Senator Dick Durbin, a Democrat from Springfield, is the 47<sup>th</sup> U.S. Senator from the State of Illinois, the state's senior senator, and the convener of Illinois' bipartisan congressional delegation.

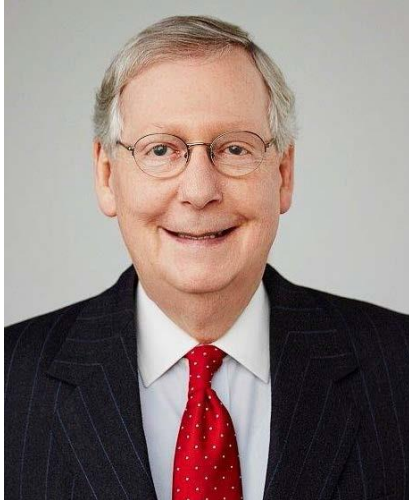
Durbin also serves as the Democratic Whip, the second highest ranking position among the Senate Democrats. Senator Durbin has been elected to this leadership post by his Democratic colleagues every two years since 2005.

Elected to the U.S. Senate on November 5, 1996, and re-elected in 2002, 2008, and 2014, Durbin fills the seat left vacant by the retirement of his long-time friend and mentor, U.S. Senator Paul Simon.

Durbin sits on the Senate Judiciary, Appropriations, and Rules Committees. He is the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration and the Appropriations Committee's Defense Subcommittee.

Senator Durbin makes approximately 50 round trips a year between Washington and Illinois. He is married to Loretta Schaefer Durbin. Their family consists of three children-- Christine (deceased), Paul and Jennifer--as well as three grandchildren, Alex, Ona and Floyd. They reside in Springfield.





Mitch McConnell is the Senate Majority Leader. Elected to that position unanimously by his Republican colleagues first in 2014 and again in 2016, he is only the second Kentuckian to ever serve as Majority Leader in the U.S. Senate. The first, Senator Alben Barkley, led the Democrats from 1937 to 1949.

Senator McConnell has served, again by the unanimous vote of his colleagues, as the Republican Leader since the 110th Congress. He is the longest-serving Senate Republican Leader in the history of the United States. McConnell previously served in leadership as the Majority Whip in the 108th and 109th Congresses and as chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee during the 1998 and 2000 election cycles.

McConnell has been called “the most conservative leader of either party in the history of the Senate.” He has also earned a reputation as a “master tactician” for permanently locking in critical tax relief for working families and small businesses, and putting in place the most significant spending reduction legislation in a generation.

He has received praise from numerous media outlets for his work as Senate Majority Leader, and in 2015 TIME Magazine named McConnell one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World.

First elected to the Senate in 1984, McConnell is Kentucky’s longest-serving senator. He made history that year as the only Republican challenger in the country to defeat an incumbent Democrat and as the first Republican to win a statewide Kentucky race since 1968. On November 4, 2014, he was elected to a record sixth term by receiving broad support across

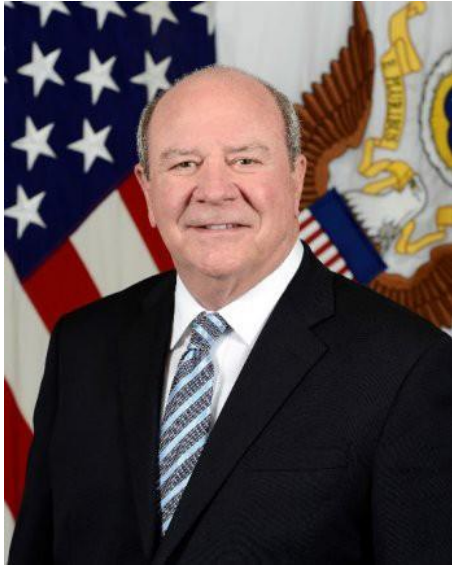
McConnell graduated with honors from the University of Louisville College of Arts and Sciences, where he served as student body president. He also is a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law, where he was elected president of the Student Bar Association.

McConnell worked as an intern on Capitol Hill for Senator John Sherman Cooper before serving as chief legislative assistant to Senator Marlow Cook and as Deputy Assistant Attorney General to President Gerald Ford.

Before his election to the Senate, he served as judge-executive of Jefferson County, Kentucky, from 1978 until he commenced his Senate term on January 3, 1985.

McConnell currently serves as a senior member of the Appropriations, Agriculture and Rules Committees. He is the proud father of three daughters.

McConnell is married to Secretary Elaine L. Chao, the 18th U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Previously, Secretary Chao served for eight years as President George W. Bush’s U.S. Secretary of Labor. She is also a former president of the United Way of America and director of the Peace Corps.



Mr. R.D. James was confirmed by the Senate on January 30, 2018 and sworn in as the 12th Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works on February 5, 2018.

As the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, he establishes policy direction and provides supervision of the Department of the Army functions relating to all aspect of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works program. These responsibilities include programs for conservation and development of the nation's water and wetland resources, flood control, navigation, and shore protection.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. James was a self-employed farmer and manager of cotton gins and grain elevators for the A.C. Riley Company in New Madrid, Missouri. President Ronald Reagan appointed Mr. James to the Mississippi River Commission on December 1, 1981. After his initial nine-year-term had expired, Mr. James was reappointed to nine-year terms by Presidents' George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

While employed with the Kentucky Department of Water Resources engineering office, he attended the University of Kentucky and graduated with a degree in civil engineering in 1971.

Mr. James received the Sikeston Area Chamber of Commerce 2007 Agri-Business Award and was the New Madrid County Outstanding Conservation Farmer of 1987. He served on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Southern Cotton Ginners Association, Memphis, Tennessee; Board Member, Cotton Producers of Missouri, Kennett, Missouri.

He is a former member of both the Board of Directors of the U.S. Bank of Sikeston, Missouri, and the New Madrid County Board of Education (served as the president from 1980-1998).

A native of Fulton County, Kentucky, he and his wife Jennye have two children, Albert Riley James, a 1995 graduate of Mississippi State University, now in the family farming business and employed by A.C. Riley Cotton Company, and Virginia Elizabeth James (deceased).



**Dr. Mark T. Esper**  
Secretary of the United States Army



Dr. Mark T. Esper was confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Nov. 15, 2017, and sworn in as the 23<sup>rd</sup> secretary of the U.S. Army, Nov. 20, 2017.

As secretary, he has statutory responsibility for all matters relating to the U.S. Army, to include the recruitment, organization, training, equipping, and care of 1.4 million active duty, National Guard, Reserve Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians and their Families.

For the past seven years, Esper was a senior executive at the Raytheon Company as vice president for Government Relations. From 2008-2010, Esper served concurrently as executive vice president for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center and as vice president for Europe and Eurasian Affairs. From 2006-2007 he served as COO and executive vice president of Defense and International Affairs at the Aerospace Industries Association.

Esper also has extensive experience working on Capitol Hill. He served as national security advisor for Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist; policy director for the House Armed Services Committee; and as a professional staff member on the Senate Foreign Relations and Government Affairs Committees where he was responsible for national security issues. Esper also served as the legislative director and senior policy advisor to Senator Chuck Hagel.

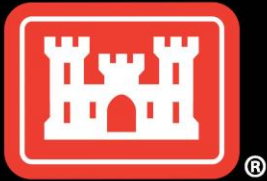
His Pentagon experience includes serving as the deputy assistant secretary of defense (Negotiations Policy) in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and earlier on the Army staff as a war planner. Esper was also chief of staff of the Heritage Foundation, and taught at Missouri State University's Department of Defense and Strategic Studies program in Fairfax, Virginia.

Esper is a 1986 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and received his commission in the Infantry. Upon completion of Ranger and Pathfinder training, he served in the Regular Army for over a decade, including service in the 1990-1991 Gulf War with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. He later commanded an airborne rifle company in Europe. Following active duty, he served in both the Virginia and District of Columbia National Guard, and Army Reserve before retiring in 2007.

Esper holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a doctorate in Public Policy from George Washington University. He is a recipient of the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service. Among his military awards and decorations are the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal – Saudi Arabia, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Esper and his wife Leah have been married for 28 years and have three adult children.

*Public Affairs POC: office- (703) 695-6047*



# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works Program provides world-class engineering and building services for the Army and the Nation.



**664**

CW construction projects completed in FY17



**22,492**

Civilian employees funded by CW, plus 286 military



**4.41/5**

Overall CW customer satisfaction survey score



**1,410**

CW employees deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in the last 5 years



**22.19B**

Overall CW project execution dollars in FY18



**400**

Average # of CW employees who deploy for emergency response annually



**975**

Personnel serving on 29 emergency response teams



**10**

CW teams who support overseas military operations



**284**

Average military requests fulfilled by CW employees annually